

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been amended herein. Claims 1-21 are currently pending.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 187103/US/BM).

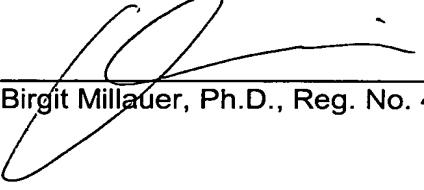
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Sept. 26, 2005

By:


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